

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 10-12 are pending in this Application. Claims 11 and 12 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Delamarche et al (J. Am. Chem Soc. 2002, 124, 3834-3835) in view of Fleming (US Patent No. 6,503,564).

The Examiner is stating that Delamarche does not teach the limitations of Claims 1 and 2. Delamarche teaches that ethanol is used in the stamping process while claims 1 and 2 contain the limitation a liquid incompatible with the molecular species. The Examiner is further stating that Delamarche is silent in regards to the atmosphere of the stamping process.

The Examiner is further citing Fleming. Fleming does not teach the limitations of Claim 1 and 2. Fleming is directed to a method of vaporizing a liquid monomer or other pre-polymer composition and condensing the vaporized material into a microstructured substrate. Therefore, Applicants would not have been motivated to use the process of Delamarche alone or in combination with Fleming nor would they be reasonably expected to look to Delamarche alone in combination with Fleming to solve the problem of providing for a method with improved controllability wherein the amount of spreading is controlled by the contact between the stamp surface and the article surface and the article is placed in a reduced pressure atmosphere, without immersion in a liquid incompatible with the molecular species. Therefore Claims 1 and 2 are not rendered obvious by Delamarche, alone or in combination with Fleming. Claims 4-7 which depend therefrom are also not rendered obvious by Delamarche alone or in combination with Fleming.

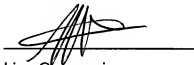
Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Delamarche and Fleming as applied to Claim 1, further in view of Geissler et al (Langmuir, 2002, 18, 2374-2377) and Xia et al (Angew. Chem. Int. Ed 1998, 37, 550-575).

Claim 10 incorporates the limitations of Claim 1. As stated above, since Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Delamarche alone or in combination with Fleming, one would not look to Geissler alone or in combination with Xia to solve the problem solved by Applicants' invention. Therefore Claim 10 which incorporates the limitations of Claim 1 is not rendered obvious by Delamarche, alone or in combination with Fleming, Geissler and Xia.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraws the objection of claim 10, rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 10 and finds the Application in condition for allowance.

If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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